

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 127301
ORIGIN ARA-10

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APPROVED BY ARA/CE :WMATTHEWS
ARA/CEN:DFIGGINS (INFO)
ARA/MGT:WCALDERHEAD
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R 182231Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, HO

SUBJECT: AFSP: FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2301

1. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO PROBLEMS WHICH EMBASSY INDICATES
RE"TEL WILL RESULT FROM ELIMINATION OF ECONOMIC SECTION
SECRETARY POSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY INSPECTORS. HOWEVER,
DUE TO WORLDWIDE NEED TO ELIMINATE POSITIONS OF LESSER
PRIORITY, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE DESIRABLE AND HIGHLY
USEFUL TO THE WORK OF THE POST, ARA HAS CONCURRED WITH
S/IG RECOMMENDATION THAT THIS POSITION BE ELIMIATED.

2. WE ARE AWARE THAT EMBASSY LAYOUT DOES NOT PERMIT
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COMBINING POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SECTIONS ON SAME FLOOR
SO THAT ONE AMERICAN SECRETARY CAN COVER BOTH, AND WE
NOTE EMBASSY COMMENT REGARDING SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH
WILL RESULT FROM LACK OF AN AMERICAN SECRETARY SEATED
IN THE ECONOMIC SECTION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE
SECURITY PROBLEM WILL BE PARTLY ADDRESSED BY MOVING
THE OFFICE OF THE NCOIC SO THAT HE CAN PROVIDE SOME

SECURITY COVERAGE FOR THE ECONOMIC SECTION. EMBASSY MIGHT WISH TO CONSIDER WAYS IN WHICH OTHER POSTS HAVE HANDLED THE PROBLEM OF A SUBSTANTIVE SECTION WITHOUT IN-OFFICE COVERAGE BY AN AMERICAN SECRETARY SUCH AS:

(A) OFFICERS DOING THEIR ROUTINE CLASSIFIED READING IN A SECURE AREA, SUCH AS POLITICAL SECTION;

(B) MAINTENANCE OF CLASSIFIED ECONOMIC FILES SEPARATELY FROM UNCLASSIFIED BY THE POLITICAL SECTION SECRETARY;

(C) MAINTENANCE OF CLASSIFIED ECONOMIC SECTION FILES BY THE OFFICERS THEMSELVES WITH ASSISTANCE FROM POLITICAL SECTION SECRETARY;

(D) ALTERNATIVELY, MAINTAIN CLASSIFIED ECONOMIC SECTION FILES IN C&R;

(E) INSTALL PUNCH COMBINATION LOCKS ON THE OFFICERS' DOORS FOR ABSENCES OF A FEW MINUTES AND LOCKING SENSITIVE MATERIALS IN OFFICE SAFES FOR LONGER ABSENCES;

(F) ASSIGN ECONOMIC CLASSIFIED DICTATION AND TYPING TO POLITICAL SECTION SECRETARY AND/OR DCM SECRETARY;

(G) GIVING ALL UNCLASSIFIED ECONOMIC SECTION WORK, INCLUDING RECEIVING AND MAKING TELEPHONE CALLS, TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LOCAL ECONOMIC SECRETARY;

(H) IF SHE DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE CLEARANCE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE, EMBASSY COULD TAKE STEPS TO OBTAIN THAT CLEARANCE FOR THE LOCAL ECONOMIC SECTION SECRETARY. MANY SENSITIVE ECONOMIC REPORTS CAN OFTEN BE ADEQUATELY PROTECTED THROUGH LOU ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL;

(I) SCHEDULE ANNUAL LEAVE AND TRANSFERS SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT ONLY ONE STATE DEPARTMENT AMERICAN SECRETARY IS ABSENT AT A TIME OR REQUEST THAT DEPT PROVIDE TDY HELP FROM NEARBY POST WHEN THAT IMPOSSIBLE;

(J) IN UNANTICIPATED EMERGENCIES REQUEST AMERICAN SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE FROM OTHER AGENCY REPRESENTED IN THE MISSION (WITH RECIPROCATION TO THAT AGENCY WHEN IT HAS UNANTICIPATED EMERGENCIES);

(L) RESTRICTING STATE DEPARTMENT AMERICAN SECRETARIAL COVERAGE FOR THE TEMPORARY DEA AGENT TO TRUE EMERGENCIES, WITH DEA TO PROVIDE OWN SECRETARY IF WORK WARRANTS.

3. SOME OTHER POSTS OF ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT SIZE AND RESPONSIBILITY AS TEGUCIGALPA, SUCH AS MANAGUA, ALREADY HAVE ONLY THREE STATE DEPARTMENT AMERICAN SECRETARIES, AND HAVE ARRANGED MATTERS SO THAT

ADEQUATE COVERAGE IS MAINTAINED. SOME SMALLER BUT ACTIVE POSTS, SUCH AS PORT OF SPAIN AND GEORGETOWN, HAVE FOR SOME YEARS FUNCTIONED WITH ONLY TWO STATE DEPARTMENT AMERICAN SECRETARIES. THE EMBASSY MAY WISH TO CORRESPOND WITH SOME OF THOSE POSTS TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL IDEAS ON HOW TO BEST MAINTAIN COVERAGE AFTER THE ECONOMIC SECTION AMERICAN SECRETARIAL POSITION IS ABOLISHED. VANCE

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